

Message Text

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50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NIC-01 IO-10 AF-06 SS-15

CU-02 PM-03 L-02 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 /081 W

----- 071588

R 021510Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4348

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0222

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, UR, LU

SUBJECT: SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: STATE 069945

1. ON MARCH 28 SOVIET AMBASSADOR KOSSAREV VISITED
EMBASSY TO INVITE ME TO V-E DAY CEREMONIES PLANNED BY SOVIET
EMBASSY. THESE CEREMONIES ARE TO CONSIST OF WREATH LAYING
AT THE MONUMENT TO THE SOVIET WAR DEAD IN ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE,
LUXEMBOURG'S SECOND LARGEST CITY AND THE CENTER OF COMMUNIST
STRENGTH IN THE COUNTRY, AND A RECEPTION THE EVENING OF MAY
9 AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY. KOSSAREV SAID THAT SIMILAR CELEBRA-
TIONS WILL BE HELD IN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE THEME OF EAST-WEST DETENTE AND
THE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF THIS DAY, NOT ONLY TO THE SOVIET
PEOPLE BUT TO HIM PERSONALLY AS A FORMER SOLDIER IN WORLD
WAR TWO. KOSSAREV SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO INVITE THE
AMBASSADORS OF OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN
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THESE EVENTS AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE HONORED TO
PARTICIPATE IN ANY SIMILAR CEREMONIES THAT THE U.S. PLANNED

TO COMMEMORATE V-E DAY. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTIONS, KOSSAREV SAID THAT THE EVENTS WERE LOCALLY PLANNED AND THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY RED ARMY OR OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS INVOLVED OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY. AFTER REMINDING KOSSAREV THAT WE HAD CONCENTRATED ON ORGANIZING CEREMONIES IN SEPTEMBER 1974 TO COMMEMORATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF LUXEMBOURG BY U.S. FORCES, I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD CHECK MY CALENDAR AND LET HIM KNOW MY RESPONSE IN A FEW DAYS.

2. AFTER MY CONVERSATION WITH KOSSAREV, REFTEL ARRIVED. I THEN CHECKED WITH SEVERAL ALLIED AMBASSADORS TO DISCOVER THAT THEIR RESPONSES VARIED. THE FRG AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS UNAWARE OF KOSSAREV'S PLANS, WAS IRRITATED AT HIS INITIATIVE BUT APPRECIATED BEING INFORMED AND UNDERSTOOD THAT I WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT THE INVITATION. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO ATTEND THE CEREMONIES AS HE THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE AND DID NOT WANT TO INSULT KOSSAREV. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE OTHERWISE ENGAGED AND, ALTHOUGH I DID NOT TALK WITH HIM DIRECTLY, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR WILL NOT ATTEND. I ALSO INFORMED THE MFA OF KOSSAREV'S INITIATIVE AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THERE WAS NO LUXEMBOURG GOVERNMENT OBJECTION TO MY ATTENDING THE SOVIET CEREMONY.

3. ON APRIL 1 I CALLED KOSSAREV TO ACCEPT HIS INVITATION.
FARKAS

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